

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01943 161832Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD UR EI
SUBJECT: SOVIET/IRISH ECONOMIC AGREEMENT INITIALLED

1. ON SEPTEMBER 10, FOLLOWING A WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS IN DUBLIN, IRISH AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS INITIALLED AN AGREEMENT COVERING ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SOVIET DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY VLADIMIR I. SIMAKOV, HEAD OF DIVISION FOR TRADE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES IN THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY. IRISH DELEGATION WAS LED BY KESTER HEASLIP, ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ECONOMIC), DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. WHILE THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES A RATHER GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC/SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, IT PROVIDES SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION WHICH IS TO MEET ANNUALLY TO REVIEW ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A CONTACT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SAID THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS TO RUN FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS, DOES NOT SET FORTH SPECIFIC TRADE TARGETS EITHER IN TERMS OF VOLUME OR IN TERMS OF PRODUCTS TO BE TRADED. HE SAID THAT THE GOI REGARDED THE AGREEMENT AS ESSENTIAL IN TERMS OF IMPROVING THE POSSIBILITY OF IRISH SALES TO THE USSR, SINCE THE
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01943 161832Z

SOVIETS SEEM TO NEED A JURIDICAL FRAMWORK FOR THEIR TRADE WITH

IRELAND. WHILE THE GOI HAS NO ILLUSIONS THAT THERE WILL BE A SUDDEN JUMP IN IRISH EXPORTS TO THE SOVIET UNION, THEY REGARD THE JOINT COMMISSION AS A FORUM IN WHICH THEY CAN PRESSURE THE SOVIETS TO BUY SPECIFIC PRODUCT LINES. SPECIFICALLY, THE IRISH INTEND TO PRESSURE THE SOVIETS TO BUY MORE FROM IRISH INDUSTRIES THAT ARE AIDED BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, THE STATE AGENCY CHARGED WITH FOSTERING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN IRELAND. SINCE A NUMBER OF AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN IRELAND HAVE BENEFITED FROM IDA GRANTS, AMERICAN INDUSTRY IN IRELAND COULD GAIN SOME SALES AS WELL.

3. IRISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOTED A LARGE TRADE IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE USSR. OUT OF A TOTAL TWO-WAY TRADE OF OVER 19 MILLION POUNDS IN 1975, IRISH EXPORTS TO THE USSR REPRESENTED ONLY 1.25 MILLION POUNDS (SHIPMENT OF EC "INTERVENTION" BEEF VALUED 8.9 MILLION POUNDS FROM IRELAND TO USSR NOT INCLUDED IN THESE FIGURES). IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT THIS PROPORTION WILL BE SOON REVERSED, BUT IRISH EXPORTERS EXPECT THEY WILL ENJOY SOMEWHAT EASIER ACCESS THAN THEY HAD BEFORE. CURLEY

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